

AWESOME ACCOLADES

COMMUNICATING EXCELLENCE

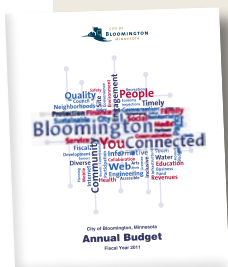
CITY WINS BIG IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The City of Bloomington brought home two awards from this year's City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) national competition honoring the best in government communications. The City was honored with the first-place Savvy Award for its internal newsletter, the *Insider*, and the third-place Award of Excellence for the *Briefing*.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: AWARDS.

FINANCIAL REPORTING EXCELLENCE

CITY WINS BUDGET AWARD



The City was once again the recipient of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget for the

fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011. The award, given by the Government Finance Officers Association, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

"This award represents a significant achievement by your City organization," GFOA Technical Services Center Director Stephen J. Gauthier said.

To receive the award, a government organization must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, operations guide, financial plan and communications tool. The City has received the award for the last 15 years.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FINANCE AWARDS.



GOOD TO KNOW

FEEDING WILDLIFE

MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know the City Code prohibits the feeding of wild animals in Bloomington? Feeding animals in suburban and urban areas can quickly become a nuisance when feral cats, raccoons, skunks and even ducks and geese become frequent visitors. Aside from destroying lawns, gardens and garbage containers, some wild animals who linger for food left outside take up residence.

The ordinance is in place to reduce the occurrence of issues with wild animals foraging for feed and creating a public nuisance. The ordinance also helps prevent issues with predator wildlife, such as coyotes, foxes and wild turkeys, that may become aggressive during breeding season. The City's goal is to guard resources and prevent conflicts between humans and wildlife.

To avoid creating an unwanted wild animal problem or a mess on your lawn when feeding song birds in your backyard, use only birdseed mixtures in squirrel-proof feeders located at least five feet off the ground.

For more information, contact Bloomington Animal Control at 952-953-4942.

LIVING WELL IN BLOOMINGTON

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS A STRONG COMMUNITY

Everyone knows that the key to good health is getting enough physical activity, like walking and biking, and eating healthy foods. The City of Bloomington wants to ensure that making the healthy choice becomes the easy choice for all who live, work and play in our community.



Bloomington, along with the cities of Richfield and Edina, is partnering with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota on a new initiative to remove barriers to healthy living in our community and support people in their efforts to be healthier.

Efforts will be focused on building on the success of some of the City's current projects, such as the Farmers Market, community gardens, and updating and expanding biking and walking trails, and looking for new ways to bring healthy options to schools, workplaces and neighborhoods.

The idea is to create sustainable changes that make physical activity and healthy eating accessible to everyone.

For more information, visit do-town.org.



CHANGES AT CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



TOM FERBER SAYS GOODBYE

After more than eight years as Bloomington's City Clerk, Thomas Ferber retired in July.

Ferber, who earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Metropolitan State University in 1985 and later a master's from Hamline University, retired after 26 years in government administration. Along with a lengthy list of committees and memberships, his previous employment history includes three years as administrative services manager for Washington County (MN), as well as serving as city clerk for the city of Richfield for 15 years.

Ferber also served as co-chair of the Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association and League of Minnesota Cities Elections Task Force. He served as a City representative on the Finding Common Ground on Election Reform at the Humphrey Institute and as Deputy Recount Official for Hennepin County in the 2010 governor's contest.



JANET LEWIS APPOINTED NEW CITY CLERK

Janet Lewis began as Bloomington City Clerk in August. Lewis, a native of New Hope, Minnesota, has more than 12 years experience in government administration as city clerk for Crystal, Minnesota. She has a strong background in leading and managing elections, licensing and public information, as well as extensive experience leading and training judges and city staff for elections.

Lewis is a certified election administrator and municipal clerk who graduated from North Hennepin Community College. In her more than 12 years in government administration, Lewis assisted Hennepin County with the 2010 recount and conducted a 2008 recount, assisted with council vacancy process and appointments in 2010 and 2007, and greatly improved customer service by redesigning administrative processes for the city of Crystal.

RAMBLER REDO

BUILDING UP: THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Is your family growing too big for your rambler? Or maybe you just want a little more space, but don't want to sell your home in a down market? The Rambler Redo series, now online, will show you how to address some of the more common updating and remodeling issues in one of the coolest and most common types of home in Bloomington: the rambler.

Adding a second story is probably the most dramatic change that you can make. For a rambler, building upward can add square footage without altering the original footprint of a home and sapping valuable yard space. Tan Nguyen from Nguyen Architects offers these tips for adding value and

square footage to your rambler by adding a second story. They include:

- A second story can be the perfect location for a master suite and additional bedrooms or office space.
- The new addition should be blended to achieve a cohesive look inside and out. However, large trim around windows and trim bands break-up and add character to the siding.
- Be aware of structural issues. Adding a second story means adding more weight to the existing footings.



- Think about where you would like a stairway. Usually a stairway takes up part of an existing room or closet on the first floor. A long hallway may also accommodate a stairway.

Before making any additions, it is important to check with the City's Building and Inspection Division at 952-563-8930 for zoning and setback requirements.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAMBLER REDO.